



# *Critical Days of Summer*

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Home Repair  
Do-It-Yourself Projects  
Yard Work



**Brought to you by:  
The Naval Safety Center**





# *Data*

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- ★ Each year, power home tools are involved in as many as 110,000 emergency room visits. More than 65% of these injuries involved power saws in home workshops.
- ★ More than 200,000 visits to emergency rooms each year are related to yard and garden equipment, including chain saws, lawn mowers and hand garden tools.
- ★ Each year, mishaps involving ladders and step stools injure more than 150,000 people.



# *Safety Tips*

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- ★ If you are working on your car and you must jack it up, put it on jack stands on a flat area and chock the other set of wheels.
- ★ Mowers annually claim a few toes among people who wear soft shoes and aren't careful mowing on hills, who slip, or who pull the mower onto their feet.
- ★ If you are working off a ladder, make sure it is stable and keep your belt buckle between the sides of the ladder.
- ★ Power tools save time and energy but increase risk. Follow the instructions and don't get distracted.



# *Photographs*



**Good:** Body in correct position, not standing too high.



**Good:** Pull—don't push—mower up hill. **Not so good:** Should be wearing goggles and hearing protection.



# *Mishap Summaries*

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- ★ *From an aviation squadron safety officer: “While cutting hurricane debris, a log broke the wrong way and kicked my chain saw into my boot. Practicing what I preach, I was wearing steel toe boots, leather gloves, eye and hearing protection. I’ve been using chain saws since I was 14—this was the first time I cut anything other than wood.”*
- ★ An AE3 was mowing a downhill slope. The mower got stuck on a clump of grass. He tried to plant his left foot on the back of the mower but slipped, which made him shove the mower forward, which in turn lifted the back of the mower, where the still-spinning blade awaited its victims: in this case, his big toe and part of another toe.



# *Suggested Best Practices*

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## ★ Auto Repair:

1. Protect your hands from solvents and gasoline by wearing protective gloves.
2. Review the precautions for working with gasoline if you are doing any work on your fuel tank, fuel lines or carburetor.



## ★ Ladders:

1. Set your ladder on a solid surface and keep it level.
2. When using a straight ladder, the base should be one foot away from the vertical surface for every four feet of height.



## ★ Lawnmowers :

1. Buy a mower with a "kill switch" built into the handle, so that when you release it, the engine stops.
2. Turn off the mower and wait for the blade to stop spinning before you empty the grass catcher or unclog the blade.





# *Lessons Learned*

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- Get smart first, and don't learn the hard way. Read the instruction manual for power tools.
- Circular saws are safer when the blade depth is only a quarter-inch more than the thickness of the wood you are cutting.
- Avoid kickback. Support the wood you are cutting so that it won't shift and pinch the saw blade.
- Before you mow, check your yard for sticks, rocks, and toys that the mower blade could turn into missiles.
- Store pesticides and herbicides on high shelves or inside locked cabinets, out of the reach of children.
- Chain saws should have an anti-kickback chain. Keep the chain sharp.



# *Remember*

If you can't stick to the rules...



... stick to the hammock.





*Work, Play, Live ...  
Safely!*

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